



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

***Raised Bill No. 246***

LCO No. 794

\*00794\_\_\_\_\_PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES  
AND THE SAFETY OF PATIENTS AND STAFF AT FACILITIES  
OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND  
ADDICTION SERVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-503 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) Any police officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a  
4 person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or  
5 herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of immediate care  
6 and treatment, may take such person into custody and take or cause  
7 such person to be taken to a general hospital for emergency  
8 examination under this section. The officer shall execute a written  
9 request for emergency examination detailing the circumstances under  
10 which the person was taken into custody, and such request shall be left  
11 with the facility. The person shall be examined within twenty-four  
12 hours and shall not be held for more than seventy-two hours unless  
13 committed under section 17a-502.

14 (b) Upon application by any person to the court of probate having  
15 jurisdiction in accordance with section 17a-497, alleging that any  
16 respondent has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or  
17 herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of immediate care  
18 and treatment in a hospital for psychiatric disabilities, such court may  
19 issue a warrant for the apprehension and bringing before it of such  
20 respondent and examine such respondent. If the court determines that  
21 there is probable cause to believe that such person has psychiatric  
22 disabilities and is dangerous to himself or herself or others or gravely  
23 disabled, the court shall order that such respondent be taken to a  
24 general hospital for examination. The person shall be examined within  
25 twenty-four hours and shall not be held for more than seventy-two  
26 hours unless committed under section 17a-502.

27 (c) Any psychologist licensed under chapter 383 who has reasonable  
28 cause to believe that a person has psychiatric disabilities and is  
29 dangerous to himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in  
30 need of immediate care and treatment, may issue an emergency  
31 certificate in writing that authorizes and directs that such person be  
32 taken to a general hospital for purposes of a medical examination. The  
33 person shall be examined within twenty-four hours and shall not be  
34 held for more than seventy-two hours unless committed under section  
35 17a-502.

36 (d) Any clinical social worker licensed under chapter 383b or  
37 advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378 who (1)  
38 has received a minimum of eight hours of specialized training in the  
39 conduct of direct evaluations as a member of any mobile crisis team,  
40 jail diversion program, crisis intervention team, advanced supervision  
41 and intervention support team, [or] assertive case management  
42 program or community support program certified by the Centers for  
43 Medicare and Medicaid Services and operated by or under contract  
44 with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and (2)  
45 based upon the direct evaluation of a person, has reasonable cause to  
46 believe that such person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous

47 to himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of  
48 immediate care and treatment, may issue an emergency certificate in  
49 writing that authorizes and directs that such person be taken to a  
50 general hospital for purposes of a medical examination. The person  
51 shall be examined within twenty-four hours and shall not be held for  
52 more than seventy-two hours unless committed under section 17a-502.  
53 The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall  
54 collect and maintain statistical and demographic information  
55 pertaining to emergency certificates issued under this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	17a-503
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***Statement of Purpose:***

To: (1) Allow certain licensed clinical social workers and advanced practice registered nurses who have completed specialized training in conducting direct evaluations through community support programs certified by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to issue emergency certificates, and (2) ensure the safety and well-being of patients and staff at facilities operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*